

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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ABERCARN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1937.

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Chairman of Council:
Councillor R. LEWIS, J.P.

Chairman of Health Committee:
Councillor T. J. JENKINS.

NEWPORT, MON. :
THE NEWPORT PRINTING CO., LTD., 12 BANESWELL ROAD.

1938.

Abercarn Urban District Council
1937-1938.

Chairman :
Councillor R. LEWIS, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :
Councillor F. H. DUNFORD.

Councillor J. DAVIES	Councillor T. JENKINS
„ F. EDWARDS	„ A. E. JONES
„ J. O. EDWARDS	„ G. H. MILES
„ T. Morgan EDWARDS	„ R. MORRIS
„ D. C. EVANS	„ K. ROGERS
„ W. J. FORD	„ D. Granville WEST
„ JACK GAMES	„ D. J. WILLIAMS
„ B. JEFFERIES	„ H. T. WILLIAMS

Medical Officer of Health :
E. M. GRIFFITH, M.D.

Sanitary Inspector :
S. A. MOSES

Abercarn Fach,

CWMCARN, Mon.

16th May, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1937—this being my 24th Annual Report—which has been compiled in accordance with Circular 1,650 (Wales).

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area and Population.

	Acreage	Population
1921 Census	9,506	20,122
1931 Census	9,506	20,551
Including Hafodyrynys	9,543	20,726
Mid-year 1937—estimated ...	9,543	18,750

Particular attention should be directed to the Registrar General's estimate of our population at mid-year 1937. This is a considerable decrease—nearly 10%—since the last census. There has certainly been some migration from the area, but on the other hand there has been some influx, in addition to which owing to the comparative better work in the pits, quite a number have returned to the district. Table I at the end of this report gives the figures of population for the past few years.

Inhabited Houses.

1934	4,411
1935	4,449 (inclusion of Hafodyrynys)
1936	4,462
1937	4,471

Rateable Value.

				Produce of Penny Rate.
1934	£67,284	...	...	£233/15/2
1935	£67,062	...	...	£234/12/4
1936	£67,839	...	...	£238/ 3/7
1937	£67,909	...	...	£236/ 5/4

Social Conditions.

The improvement in local economic conditions noted in my last report, has, I am thankful to say, continued throughout 1937. Work at the pits, is, I believe, better now than for quite a few years past. There has been a small increase in the wages of the lower paid workers but unfortunately this has been more than off set by the rise in the cost of living.

Work has also been better at the Tinplate Works. Nevertheless there are still a considerable number of unemployed in the district—some of whom have not had work for years past. It is probable that many of these men cannot again find work. It may be they are now unemployable, because of their long period of unemployment, and because they are unaccustomed to the new methods now being practised.

The wages of the great majority of the workers are low and although our people are striving and optimistic, yet, there is quite a lot of poverty in our midst. I have found in very many instances that it is not the children who suffer a lack of necessities, because parents (especially mothers) will go without rather than that their children should do so. One must pay tribute to these people, and we must do all we can to help them in their difficulties.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—			Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	288	150	138
Illegitimate	...	...	6	2	4
Totals ...			294	152	142

Birth Rate 15.68.

Still Births—

Legitimate	...	...	16	4	12
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
Totals ...				4	12

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 51.61.

Deaths	...	...	...	227	121	106
Death Rate 12.10.						

Deaths from puerperal causes—

				Deaths
Heading No. 29.	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	1
Heading No. 30.	Other puerperal causes	...	...	—
				—
	Total	...	...	1
				—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births 57·82.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births... 59·02

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births... Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	19
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	None
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	None
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	1

BIRTHS.

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933
Live Births	294	309	378	344	334

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population:—

Abercarn	15·68	15·90	19·22	17·44	16·72
County	15·5	15·9	16·12	16·49	16·29
England & Wales	14·9	14·8	14·7	14·8	14·4

Still Births	16	22	19	24	25
--------------------	----	----	----	----	----

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population:—

	1937	1936	1935	1934
Abercarn	0·85	1·13	0·96	1·21
County	0·90	0·96	0·98	0·94
England and Wales	0·60	0·61	0·62	0·62

Average number of births during last ten years: 366.

Highest number of births	...	669	in 1920	Birth Rate	...	33·35
Lowest number of births	...	290	in 1906	Birth Rate	...	21·30
Highest Birth Rate	...	48·4	in 1893	Number	...	558
Lowest Birth Rate	...	15·68	in 1937	Number	...	294

It will be seen at once that the Birth Rate for 1937 is the lowest on record in our area. That for 1936 was the previous lowest. The lowest number of actual births ever recorded was 290, so long ago as 1906, compared with 294 last year, but our population then was very much less than to-day. Our birth-rate is however, fractionally higher than that for the County. Again, last year, more boys were born than girls, 8% this year, compared with 15% last year.

The natural increase (or excess of births over deaths) was 67, compared with 93 last year, and 176 in 1935.

DEATHS.

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933
Males	121	115	116	113	119
Females	106	101	86	96	107
Total	<u>227</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>202</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>226</u>

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population:

Abercarn	12.10	11.11	10.27	10.59	11.31
County	12.6	12.2	11.5	11.7	11.49
England and Wales...	12.4	12.1	11.7	11.8	12.3

The number of deaths registered in our district in 1937 was 206, of which 26 belonged to other areas, but 47 deaths of residents occurred away, so that the number of deaths to be taken is 227 compared with 216 last year.

The deaths occurred as follows:

		Last year
First Quarter	71	68
Second Quarter	50	48
Third Quarter	48	43
Fourth Quarter	58 227	57 216

It will be noted our death rate is lower than that for the County or the Country, and has been for the past few years.

Average number of deaths per annum for last ten years ...	217
Lowest number of deaths ... 139 in 1906	Death Rate ... 10.2
Highest number of deaths ... 289 in 1901	Death Rate ... 22.9
Lowest Death Rate ... 8.60 in 1926	Number ... 179
Highest Death Rate ... 22.9 in 1901	Number ... 289

The causes of deaths were as follows:

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1937.

1936	ALL CAUSES						M.	F.
216							121	106
—	1	Typhoid and parat fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	2	Measles ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	3	Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—
4	4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	5	Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	1	—	—
7	6	Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	4	9	—
—	7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	8	Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—
10	9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	8	5	—
1	10	Other Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	1	2	—
—	11	Syphilis ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—
		General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes						
1	12	Dorsalis, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	1	—	—
19	13	Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	9	10	—
2	14	Diabetes ... ..	...	...	...	3	1	—
22	15	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	9	10	—
35	16	Heart Disease ... ..	...	...	...	22	15	—
—	17	Aneurysm ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—
5	18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	1	3	—
17	19	Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	8	7	—
17	20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	6	5	—
3	21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	6	1	—
2	22	Peptic Ulcer ... ..	...	...	...	3	—	—
—	23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	1	—
3	24	Appendicitis ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	—
—	25	Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	26	Other Liver Disease ... ..	...	...	...	—	1	—
5	27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	4	7	—
5	28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	2	4	—
—	29	Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	...	...	—	1	—
1	30	Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	—	—	—
10	31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	...	...	...	6	6	—
8	32	Senility ... ..	...	...	...	7	8	—
2	33	Suicide ... ..	...	...	...	—	2	—
13	34	Other Violence ... ..	...	...	...	9	1	—
23	35	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	10	6	—
1	36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	—	—	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Number of deaths under one year:

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933
Boys	7	15	15	13	12
Girls	10	8	12	7	8
	—	—	—	—	—
	17	23	27	20	20
	—	—	—	—	—
Number of Live Births	294	309	378	344	334
Infant Death Rate ...	57.82	74.75	71.42	58.13	59.88
County Rate ...	63.9	61.7	61.4	57.4	71.72
England and Wales ...	58	59	57	59	64

Deaths of Infants in Abercarn Urban Area:

Legitimate	17	23	27	17	18
Illegitimate	—	—	—	3	2
Average number of infant deaths	1893-1914—83			Rate ...	160
„ „ „	1915-1924—49			Rate ...	90.34
„ „ „	1925-1934—27.1			Rate ...	65.12
„ „ „	1935-1937—22.3			Rate ...	68.03
Lowest number of infant deaths	17 in 1937			Rate ...	57.82
Highest number of infant deaths	119 in 1897			Rate ...	221.0
Lowest infant death rate	50.93 in 1932			Number	19
Highest infant death rate	244 in 1899			Number	116

Whilst earlier, I regretted to have to record our lowest birth rate on record, it is with great pleasure that I record our lowest number of infant deaths ever registered in our district. The previous lowest number was 19 in 1932.

The following Table gives the causes of deaths of infants :

	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Premature Birth ...	2	2			4					4
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	5	1			6					6
Bronchitis	1				1					1
Pneumonia ...							2			2
Diarrhoea ...										—
Whooping Cough ...										—
Tuberculosis Disease										—
Other Causes ...				1	1		2		1	4
	8	3		1	12	—	4	—	1	17
1936 ...	8	5			13	5	1	2	2	23
1935 ...	12	2		1	15	5	3	3	1	27
1934 ...	7	2			9	4	5	1	1	20
1933 ...	6	2			8	5	2	2	3	20
1932 ...	7	1			8	2	1	6	2	19
1931 ...	7	3	1		11	5	4	3		23

SECTION B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers:

Medical Officer of Health (part time), E. M. Griffith, M.D.,
M.B.C.M.

Sanitary Inspector, S. A. Moses.

Additional Sanitary Inspector, Ivor Jenkins, M.R.S.I.

Nursing in the Home.

There are three voluntary Nursing Associations in the district. There are four District Nurses, one each at Abercarn, Cwmearn, Newbridge and Crumlin.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary is maintained by the Welsh National Memorial Association at Pontllanfraith (just outside our area), where their medical officers attend weekly.

A Clinic is maintained by the County Council at the Royal Gwent Hospital at Newport, for the treatment of venereal diseases.

There are three Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the area (Abercarn, Newbridge and Crumlin), maintained by the County Council. Twelve midwives practise in the area.

School Clinics are maintained by the County Education Committee at Newport. Dental and Eye Clinics are established locally, and the Travelling Dental Clinic visits the schools periodically.

The County Council take complete charge of Blind persons.

There are two Public Vaccinators.

Hospitals.

A scheme for a hospital for infectious cases is now under way.

The County Medical Officer proposes to group the authorities in the County into areas. We hope that by the end of 1938 some arrangement will have been come to.

Arrangements have been made for infectious cases, when necessary, to be admitted to the Infectious Disease Hospitals maintained by the County Council. No cases were sent last year, and only one case was sent in 1934.

Many other cases from our area are received into many other hospitals, mainly the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport; The Royal Infirmary, Cardiff; The Aberbeeg, Blaina, Pontypool and Oakdale Hospitals. Almost all our tubercular cases receive treatment either at the dispensaries of the Welsh National Memorial Association or their sanatoria.

Ambulance Facilities.

The need for a motor ambulance for the removal of stretcher cases is apparent to us all. At present we depend on the St. Johns Motor Ambulance situate at Crosskeys, and on the County Council Ambulance for infectious cases.

Public Mortuary and Post Mortem Room.

Several cases occurred during the year where post-mortem examinations were necessary, and these had to be done under inconvenient conditions. At my request you were good enough to give instructions to fully equip our Cemetery Mortuary for use for the purpose. When the work is complete this building will be quite efficient for all practical purposes.

Ambulance Boxes.

The St. John's Ambulance Divisions are well organised and efficient. Grants are made to them by the Council when necessary and ambulance boxes are available in case of need.

Midwives.

The new Midwives Act is about to come into force under which the Midwives in the area will be State paid and controlled. This will undoubtedly tend to diminish the maternal mortality throughout the country.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Adoptive Acts.

Private Streets Works Act, 1892 (15th November, 1921) .
Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Acts, 1899—1936.

Special Acts.

Abercarn Urban District Gas Act, 1902.
Western Valleys (Mon.) Sewerage Board Acts, 1903-1921.
Abertillery and District Water Board Acts, 1910-1924.

Bye-Laws.

Slaughterhouses	14th June, 1895
Offensive Trades	do.
Nuisances	do.
Common Lodging Houses	do.
Houses Let in Lodgings	do.
Cleansing of Footways and Pavements	do.
Private and Public Scavenging,	6th April, 1907.
Secondary Means of Access.	
New Streets and Buildings,	27th July, 1926.
As to Parks, Open Spaces and Cemetery.	

Regulations.

As to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Council is a Constituent Authority of the Abertillery and District Water Board. Throughout the year there was a good and plentiful supply.

Drainage and Sewerage: Closet Accommodation.

The Council is a Constituent Authority of the Western Valleys (Mon.) Sewerage Board. All our local subsidiary sewers are connected to the Board's main trunk sewer. During the year the culverting of the Torlais Brook at Newbridge was completed and the arching of the Pantyresk Brook at Abercarn was also completed. These schemes deal with the surface water and should relieve the neighbourhood of the fear of flooding. The cost of the work was

borne largely by a grant from the Commissioner for the Special Areas together with a loan of approximately £1,100. The Council have under consideration the construction of a few small lengths of sewer at Crosspenmaen, Pennar, etc., and probably these works will be undertaken if a grant can be obtained towards the cost.

Closet Accommodation.

I am pleased indeed at the manner in which you received my comments in my last report as to dwellings without flushing cisterns. The prompt and effective action which you took is bound to have its effect on the health of the people. As a result of your decisions the owner of every house where no flushing cistern was provided was circularised. In many cases the work has already been completed and although it is a big task I hope the Council will pursue the matter until every W.C. is properly fitted. Good work has already been done as we have received notification of the intention of owners to put in flushing cisterns in respect of 300 houses.

RAINFALL.

Recorded at " Twyn Carn," Cwmearn, by Mr. John Williams,
your Engineer:

1937			Depth Total	Greatest Fall 24 Hours		Number of Days with .01 or more recorded	1936 Fall
			Inches	Inches	Date		
January	...	...	7.71	1.26	12th	23	8.38
February	...	...	8.96	1.61	2nd	25	3.85
March	...	...	4.69	1.00	10th	16	4.66
April	...	...	5.05	1.12	15th	17	4.54
May	...	...	2.91	.58	22nd	12	1.35
June	...	...	1.47	.59	10th	12	3.28
July	...	...	3.38	2.02	15th	15	10.38
August	...	...	1.23	.84	12th	5	1.06
September	...	...	2.32	.61	16th	13	3.53
October	...	...	4.92	1.45	24th	11	2.28
November	...	...	3.54	1.10	22nd	12	5.50
December	...	...	4.42	1.02	12th	16	9.56
			50.60	2.02	15-7-37	177	58.37
1936	...	...	58.37	2.55	17/12/36	204	—
1935	...	...	57.59	2.02	9/10/35	201	—
1934	...	...	51.03	1.49	25/12/34	154	—
1933	...	...	30.63	2.15	9/10/33	86	—
1932	...	...	53.93	2.12	5/1/32	149	—
1931	...	...	54.56	3.55	27/5/31	176	—
1930	...	...	62.13	1.98	20/8/30	150	—
1929	...	...	58.92	2.16	3/8/29	111	—

Height above Sea Level

428.1 feet

Lowest on record...30.63 in 1933

Highest on record...72.05 in 1903

Average:

1900-12...52.19 inches

1913-18...No records

1919-28...52.82 inches

1929-37...53.08 inches

House Scavenging.

This work is done throughout the district by two contractors and although there are a number of small complaints, yet generally speaking, the work is well done.

Scavenging Tips.

The tips are regularly baited and everything is done to keep down the rat pest. The methods adopted by the Council of endeavouring to control tipping are an improvement and I hope the Council will pursue this matter even further. We shall not then have the unsightly tips of the past.

Promiscuous Tipping.

From time to time we receive complaints from different parts of the area of dumping of refuse in unauthorised places and I cannot too strongly recommend the Council to take a serious view of this nuisance and prosecute any offender unhesitatingly. Not only is this unsightly and disfiguring but is a breeding ground for flies and a danger to health.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

An immense amount of work was done by the Sanitary Inspector and the Additional Sanitary Inspector during 1937. Not only had they the ordinary routine work to undertake but also the Council's Slum Clearance Scheme. In addition a large number of repairs were carried out to dwellings. A detailed statement is included in the Sanitary Inspector's report at the end of this report. This report is compiled in accordance with the Ministry's instructions, and thus the greater part of his report is included in my section.

Swimming Bath.

Our new swimming pool was opened on the 17th July last, and has proved a boon to the area. Proof of its popularity can be found in the huge number who attended there. The baths were closed at the end of September and during the few short weeks it was open it is astonishing to find there were over 25,000 bathers.

The cost was met largely by a 90 per cent. grant from the Commissioner for the Special Areas without whose aid we should never have been able to provide these facilities. The balance will be provided by way of loan. These are the only baths nearer than Abertillery and Risca.

Bed Bugs.

I regret to say we had considerable trouble during the year with vermin, both in Council and other houses. Its elimination entailed considerable trouble and expense and everything possible has been done to get rid of this nuisance. From time to time we have complaints of vermin in the Council houses and I think it would be a good thing and help to prevent this nuisance if the Council called for a special report on each instance, and endeavoured if at all possible, to ascertain how the complaint arose. If an example were made in a case or two, I think it would do a great deal of good.

Rat Destruction.

Again we had several serious complaints of rats. I have already referred to the Scavenging Tips. It is the duty of every owner of property to deal with this nuisance and so far as possible, the Sanitary Inspector renders advice and assistance. We have sent our own expert to assist property owners troubled by this pest.

Shops Acts.

The Sanitary Inspector acts as Shops Inspector. Shop premises are inspected regularly and no prosecutions were undertaken during the year.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory. No cause arose for me to close any school during the year.

Mining Subsidence.

Subsidence continues in Crumlin and caused us considerable anxiety. Some new houses at Treowen are also affected. Some houses in Whitethorn had to be closed and the tenants transferred to other dwellings.

Public Conveniences.

The Council have now decided to re-install flushing apparatus in the urinals, although I grieve to refer to the damage done by some hooligans. I trust that the new connections will be protected by being enclosed, which from my observation has been quite satisfactory in other neighbourhoods.

Cinemas.

I have no complaints as to the sanitary conveniences at the five cinemas in our area.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

In my last report to you I endeavoured to give a complete statement as to overcrowding and as to the steps taken under the Housing Act, 1930.

As to overcrowding, the position this year compares with that last year, as under:—

	1936	1937
Overcrowded dwellings	39	26
Number of families therein.....	49	33
Number of persons therein	347	208
Cases relieved during the year ...	22	13
Number of persons concerned ...	125	139

Every effort is made to deal with these cases but whilst this problem will have to be dealt with, I have decided to defer comment until my next report as it may be the new houses now under construction will have some effect on the position.

As regards proceedings under the 1930 Act we have certainly progressed since my last report.

The persons likely to be displaced as a result of our programme is as follows:—

	Dwellings	Persons to be displaced or already displaced
In "Clearance" Areas ...	66	251
Demolition Orders	7	27
"Closing" Orders	31	122
Totals	104	400

The number of dwellings already closed is 30 and the persons displaced number 109. This leaves a total of 74 houses required for rehousing, comprising 291 persons.

The new housing programme is as follows:—

	No.	Type	Standard Accommodation
Now under construction:—			
George Street	12	A3	60
George Street	4	A2	16
Ashfield Road	16	A3	80

Proposed:—

Islwyn Street	10	A3	50
Islwyn Street	6	A2	24
Crosspenmaen	14	A3	70
Crosspenmaen	6	A2	24
Triunant	16	A3	80
	<hr/> 84		<hr/> 404

The persons to be displaced are living at present in dwellings let at a low rent, in some cases a very low rent, and it is necessary to keep the rents of the new houses as low as possible. I understand that this can only be achieved provided the maximum Government subsidy is obtained and I am told that this necessitates that only persons displaced as a result of the Council's action under the Act, should be accommodated in the new houses.

Our list of unfit houses is constantly being revised and the necessary reports are being submitted to the Council from time to time.

One thing I am told is vital and that is to get the houses completed before the 31st December, 1938, after which date the Government subsidy will be considerably reduced.

The following statement is in the form called for by the Ministry of Health:—

Number of houses erected during the year:—

By Council	Nil
By Private enterprise	11
	<hr/> 11

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 540
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 692
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 121
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 150
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 3
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 94

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	87
3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	268
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	246
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	None
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	None
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	None
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	None
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	None
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	None
4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding:—	
(a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	26
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	33
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	208
(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	13
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	139
(d)—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local	

Authority have taken steps for the abatement of
 overcrowding None

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Number on register:

Retail Purveyors	82
Wholesale Purveyors	65

In accordance with the Milk and Dairies Orders, etc., all dairies, milkshops and cowsheds were inspected during the year. Samples of milk are taken from time to time in co-operation with the County Sanitary Inspector and the same sent for bacteriological examination. Generally, the samples are good.

Bakehouses.

All the bakehouses in the area were inspected during the year and the general standard is much higher. The bread supplies of the district is good.

Slaughterhouses.

Registered Slaughterhouses	6
Licenced Slaughterhouses	1

Constant supervision of the Slaughterhouses is very necessary and this work entails a great deal of the Inspector's time. A Public Abattoir is urgently needed for our area. As I say I am loth to ask the Council to embark on a scheme such as this just now, but the condition of many of the old slaughterhouses in our area is certainly bad.

Inspection of Meat.

During 1937 the following were slaughtered for local consumption.

	1937	1936	1935	1934
Cattle	597	682	402	337
Sheep	4361	4959	2001	2503
Pigs	784	939	505	570
Pigs killed privately	77	121	46	62
Calves	236	290	101	115
	<hr/> 6055 <hr/>	<hr/> 6991 <hr/>	<hr/> 3155 <hr/>	<hr/> 3587 <hr/>

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	199	398	236	4361	861
Number inspected.....	199	398	236	4361	861
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases con- demned	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned....	Nil	12	Nil	264	20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis ...	Nil	3.01	Nil	6.05	2.3
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases con- demned	4	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	19	Nil	Nil	33
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.02	4.7	—	—	3.8

Unsound Food.

During 1937 the following were condemned for human consumption:—

	1935	1936	1937
English Meat:			
Beef	8 cwts.	18 cwts.	21 cwts.
Bacon	60 lbs.	25 lbs.	70 lbs.
Pork, Offal, etc.	125 lbs.	530 lbs.	480 lbs.
Foreign and Chilled Meat:			
Beef, etc.	—	19 lbs.	1 cwt.
Fish	50 lbs.	92 lbs.	120 lbs.
Vegetables and Fruit...	123 lbs.	56 lbs.	212 lbs.
Bottled and Tinned Goods:			
Condensed			
Milk	53 tins	22 tins	40 tins
Salmon	26 tins	15 tins	30 tins
Corned Beef.....	3 tins	12 tins	22 tins
Tomatoes	76 tins	52 tins	30 tins
Mixed Fruits ...	13 tins	12 tins	36 tins

Two carcases of beef were condemned complete with offal due

to general tuberculosis, and four carcasses of mutton due to emaciation.

Tradespeople render every assistance where food is unfit for human consumption.

FRIED FISH SHOPS AND ICE CREAM SHOPS.

These premises are continually visited for cleanliness. Where complaints are made I find the proprietors only too ready to carry out my suggestions.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

I am pleased to again record, for another year, our comparative freedom from infectious disease. Although the number notified is greater than last year, this is more than accounted for by the mild cases of scarlet fever.

The Sanitary Inspector visits every case of infectious disease. Advice is given as to isolation of the patient and ultimately the premises are carefully disinfected.

Notifiable Diseases during 1937.

1936	Disease				Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted Hospital	Total Deaths
—	Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—
28	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	68	—	—
8	Diphtheria	...	...	...	10	—	1
—	Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	1	—	—
—	Puerperal Fever...	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	—	—	—
13	Pneumonia	...	...	...	10	—	11
27	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	18	12	16
6	Erysipelas	...	...	...	8	—	—
—	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	1	—	—
—	Chicken Pox	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
—	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
82	Total	...	...	...	116	12	28
	1936	...	...	...	82	13	43
	1935	...	...	...	64	13	43
	1934	...	...	...	145	11	38
	1933	...	...	...	80	14	34
	1932	...	...	...	185	20	33
	1931	...	...	...	143	10	33
	1930	...	...	...	127	7	38

Analysis of Cases Notified—In Age Groups.

	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65	Total
Diphtheria ...			1			2	6				1		10
Erysipelas ...									3	3	2		8
Scarlet Fever ...		1	3	5	5	30	16	3	2	3	—	—	68
Tuberculosis ...			1	1	1	2	1	7	2	3	—	—	18
Puerperal Pyrexia ...													
Pneumonia ...		1			2	1	1			1	4		10
Enceph. Lethargica													
Chicken Pox ...													
Small Pox ...													
Ophthal. Neonatorum	1												1
Cerebro Spinal Fever													
Enteric Fever ...									1				1
1937 ...	1	2	5	6	8	35	24	10	8	10	7	—	116
1936 ...	—	1	1	5	4	21	9	2	17	8	12	2	82
1935 ...	1	1	2	6	2	15	6	5	12	5	8	1	64
1934 ...	6	7	7	11	6	35	27	10	20	5	9	2	145
1933 ...	3	6	4	2	1	26	5	9	12	4	7	1	80
1932 ...	13	7	10	10	14	68	37	8	10	4	3	1	185
1931 ...	4	9	6	12	7	60	19	9	9	1	4	3	143
1930 ..		5	6	7	14	49	18	3	10	6	7	2	127

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING PAST SIX YEARS.

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	68	28	27	92	28	102
Diphtheria ...	10	8	3	9	11	8
Enteric Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia ...	10	13	6	7	6	17
Tuberculosis ...	18	27	21	22	24	21
Erysipelas ...	8	6	5	10	6	1
Enceph. Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	—	2	3	2
	116	82	64	145	80	185

Scarlet Fever.

Cases notified were:

	1937	1936	1935	1934
North Ward.....	23	7	8	26
Central Ward	10	8	5	12
Torlais Ward	3	2	2	2
South Ward.....	16	8	8	12
East Ward	12	2	—	35
West Ward	4	1	4	5
	—	—	—	—
	68	28	27	92
	—	—	—	—
First Quarter	14	7	12	12
Second Quarter	3	5	4	27
Third Quarter	14	6	2	37
Fourth Quarter	37	10	9	16
	—	—	—	—
	68	28	27	92
	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	2

Whilst there was a considerable increase in the number of cases they were all of a mild type.

Measles.

	1937	1936	1935	1934
Deaths	—	—	2	—

Whooping Cough.

	1937	1936	1935	1934
Deaths	—	4	2	2

Diphtheria.

Cases notified were:	1937	1936	1935	1934.
South Ward	1	1	3	2
East Ward	—	1	—	3
West Ward	—	—	—	—
Central Ward	—	2	—	2
Torlais Ward	—	—	—	1
North Ward.....	9	4	—	1
	—	—	—	—
	10	8	3	9
	—	—	—	—
Deaths	1	—	—	2

It will be noted that practically all the cases occurred in the North Ward and were clearly “contact” cases.

Anti-toxin is supplied free in all necessary cases.

Erysipelas.

	1937	1936	1935	1934
Cases notified	8	6	5	10

Of the cases notified 3 were in the South Ward, 2 in the Tor-lais, and one each in the North, Central and East Wards.

Enteric Fever.

One case only occurred, and the patient recovered.

Puerperal Sepsis.

This case died at an Institution outside the area.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality in 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
10	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	4	2	—	—	—	1	—	1
35	—	2	—	—	2	2	1	1
45	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ..	6	7	1	4	8	5	1	2
1936	11	9	3	4	5	5	1	—
1935	8	8	3	2	9	5	4	1
1934	8	12	2	—	4	12	1	2
1933	5	12	6	1	2	5	2	—
1932	5	5	4	7	2	4	3	—

SUMMARY.

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932
New Cases ...	18	27	21	22	24	21
Deaths	16	11	19	19	9	9

The majority of the adult male cases are, of course, in this area, miners, whilst the women are naturally, engaged in house duties.

All cases from this district either has treatment at the local dispensaries or is sent away to one or other of the various Sanatoria of the Welsh National Memorial Association.

Every possible care is taken to keep in touch with all cases notified, and disinfection is carried out wherever necessary.

Non-notified Deaths.

Three deaths were of cases not notified under the present Regulations. Upon enquiry I found that these cases were all of long standing and a full statement has been sent to the Ministry of Health on the circumstances.

ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES. DEATHS.

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932
Bronchitis	15	17	10	12	16	14
Pneumonia	11	17	19	14	15	15
Other Forms	7	3	9	8	17	15
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Deaths ...	33	37	38	34	48	44
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Death Rate.....	1.75	1.90	1.93	1.72	2.40	2.17

CANCER. DEATHS.

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932
Males	9	7	7	9	7	10
Females	10	12	2	9	8	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	19	19	9	18	15	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

CORONER'S INQUESTS.

The following is a summary:—

8 inquests were held on residents in 1937 compared with 16 last year.

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933
Mining accidents ...	2	3	2	3	3
Silicosis	<hr/>	<hr/>	3	<hr/>	<hr/>
Motor accidents	3	1	4	<hr/>	1
Drowning	1	2	<hr/>	1	<hr/>
Burns	<hr/>	1	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Suicide, etc.....	2	2	<hr/>	<hr/>	3
Railway	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	1
Falls	<hr/>	2	1	3	<hr/>
Natural Causes	<hr/>	1	4	3	5
Other Causes	<hr/>	4	1	1	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8	16	15	11	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

ABERCARN MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

REPORT FOR 1937.

(a) Details of ailments found in infants examined:—

Bronchitis	...	...	18	Anaemia	...	...	18
Bronchial Catarrh	...	...	17	Impetigo	...	...	4
Gastritis	...	...	15	Blepharitis	...	...	4
Dyspepsia	...	...	9	Umb. Hernia	...	...	5
Diarrhoea	...	...	7	Eczema	...	...	6
Otorrhoea	...	...	7	Phimosis	...	...	14
Constipation	...	...	14				

(b) Details of methods of feeding infants:—

Breast fed	...	...	86	Ostermilk	...	...	23
Breast and cows' milk	...	...	7	Cow and Gate	...	...	17
Breast and Nestles	...	...	8	Cows' milk	...	...	15
Breast and Ostermilk	...	...	5	Nestles and Virol	...	...	23
Glaxo	...	...	19	Miscellaneous (Toddlers)	...	...	88

(c) Attendances at the Centre:—

The attendances have kept up wonderfully well.

Infants:

No. on Register at end of year 291

No. of attendances during the year:—

New cases under 1 year	...	...	...	111
New cases 1 to 5 years	...	...	...	1
Revisits under 1 year	...	...	...	2150
Revisits 1 to 5 years	...	...	...	1707
Total under 1 year	...	...	...	2261
Total 1 to 5 years	...	...	...	1708

Total attendances 3969

Average attendance at each session 82.68.

Nursing mothers None

(d) The number of cases receiving free food has dropped to a great extent as employment has improved during the year.

(e) Drugs have never been prescribed to any great extent at this Clinic and there has been little difference during the year.

(f) Malnutrition in nursing mothers has decreased considerably during the year and the same can be said of non-nursing mothers and babies and toddlers—owing no doubt largely to the decrease in unemployment during the year.

In conclusion I should like to thank again Nurse Lord and Nurse Hopkins and the voluntary lady workers for their devoted work.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. M. GRIFFITH, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S 39th ANNUAL REPORT.

Council Offices, Abercarn, Mon.

25th March, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report of sanitary work done during 1937.

Notices served:—

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	760
Statutory	..	...	...	...	...	...	57

Summary of above:

Pantry and W.C. roofs repaired	...	...	94
Defective drains repaired	...	...	87
Drains opened and cleansed	...	...	46
Ventilation shafts repaired	...	...	6
Dilapidated W.Cs. repaired	...	...	36
New W.Cs. provided	...	...	5
Backyards repaired	...	...	18
New fireplaces	...	...	16
Inspection chambers	...	...	3
Walls and ceilings re-plastered and repaired	...	...	44
New W.C. pans provided...	...	...	14
Flush Tanks repaired	...	...	46

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Factories—30.

Workshops—27.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			No. of Prosecutions.
	Found	Re-medied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation	—	—	—	—
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. ARTHUR MOSES,

Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1937 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Pop'n ⁿ tion estimated to middle of each year	Births		Total Deaths registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to District.		
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate	To other Districts	Of residents away	Under 1 year		At all Ages.
								No.	Rate per 1000 Nett	
1922	20840	507	24.32	188		1	29	46	96.45	216
1923	20990	503	24.53	208		24	19	33	64.07	203
1924	21140	532	25.16	218		28	29	45	84.58	219
1925	21260	535	25.16	229		26	23	27	87.86	226
1926	20800	479	23.02	186		24	17	47	56.58	179
1927	20920	408	19.50	200		32	25	31	75.98	193
1928	20980	417	19.82	192		29	24	25	59.95	187
1929	20960	465	22.18	213		23	39	33	70.96	228
1930	20960	377	17.98	201		23	20	26	68.96	198
1931	20680	371	17.94	241	11.65	22	49	23	61.99	268
1932	20260	373	18.41	218	10.76	34	27	19	50.93	211
1933	19970	334	16.72	230	11.52	31	27	20	59.88	226
1934	19720	344	17.44	216	10.95	33	26	20	58.13	209
1935	19667	378	19.22	205	10.42	35	29	27	71.42	202
1936	19430	309	15.90	199	10.41	31	48	23	74.75	216
1937	18750	294	15.68	206	10.98	26	47	17	57.82	227
										12.10

Area of District: 9543 Acres.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER DISTRICTS.

(included at request of the Council).

	Aber- earn	Aber- earn	County	E'gland and Wales	Risca	Aber- tillery	Myny'd islwyn	Magor and St. Mellons	Ebbw Vale	Bed- wellty
	1936	1937	1937	1937	1934	1937	1936	1936	1936	1937
1 Population ...	19430	18750	—	—	16500	28600	14020	15880	29900	30000
2 Area in Acres ...	9543	9543	—	—	4195	6463	5415	46150	6817	7355
3 Inhabited Houses ...	4462	4471	—	—	3600	6861	3220	4366	6485	6362
4 Number of Council Houses ...	258	258	—	—	465	178	304	168	570	736
5 Birth Rate ...	15.90	15.68	15.5	14.9	13.5	16.1	16.11	13.9	15.85	18.57
6 Death Rate ...	11.11	12.10	12.6	12.4	12.6	12.7	10.12	12.47	11.87	10.22
7 Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 births)	74.75	57.82	63.9	58	40.9	75.9	48.54	49.5	61.18	58.29
8 Number of Infectious Diseases notified ...	82	116	—	—	—	172	84	27	307	237



